

SORDID DETAILS OF HALL LOVE-MAKING BARED TO JURY BY MRS. MILLS'S SISTER



"SIGNS OF JEALOUSY," which included ignoring Mrs. Eleanor Mills and Dr. Edward W. Hall, were shown by Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall at a church pageant shortly before the baffling double murder, it was revealed by Mrs. Elsie Barnhardt, sister of the choir singer, at murder trial at Somerville, N. J. This rare photograph shows the Rev. Hall and his flock on "jealousy night." It reveals the pillars of the church in a jovial and apparently friendly mood, while the fires of hate smoldered beneath the surface. The photo shows: (1) Mrs. Minna Clark, Sunday school teacher, who spied on the enamored pair; (2) Mrs. Mills; (3) Dr. Hall; (4) Danny Mills, son of the slain choir singer; (5) Charlotte Mills, her daughter; (6) Louise Geist, former Hall maid; (7) Ralph Gorsline, murder witness.

Choir Singer Sat on Lap Of Rector, Who Kissed Her

By JACK MILEY

SOMERVILLE, N. J., Nov. 16.—Mrs. Marie Demarest, cousin of Mrs. Minna Clark, testified at the Hall-Mills murder trial here today that during the investigation of the double murder four years ago, Felix Di Martini, a private detective in the employ of Mrs. Hall, had offered to clear a mortgage of \$2,500 on her home and to give her "a little more to keep your mouth shut."

SOMERVILLE, N. J., Nov. 16.—The unromantic hand of justice reached out this afternoon and, tearing aside the mantle of secrecy, bared new phases of those intimate relations which for several years existed between the Rev. Edward W. Hall and Mrs. Eleanor R. Mills.

And by one of those unexplained tricks of fate, which recognizes neither privacy nor shame, it was another sister of the slain choir singer who gave Supreme Court Justice Parker and the jury a further insight into this strange mixture of love and religion.

Reveals Sordid Details

Yesterday Mrs. Elsie Barnhardt furnished the outside world its first authentic peep into the clandestine and illicit amours of Mrs. Mills and the minister.

Today Mrs. Marie M. Lee stripped them of the last vestige of secrecy, revealing in all its sordid details the uncontrolled passion of the man sworn to preach the word of God for a member of his congregation—the wife of another.

There was no bickering, no halting answers today. Yesterday Mrs. Barnhardt blushed and stammered as she described a scene she had witnessed in Dr. Hall's study adjoining the Church of St. John the Evangelist.

Sat on Rector's Lap

Mrs. Lee, anxious to have the

mystery cleared, irrespective of whose reputations are at stake, was almost frank today in telling of how she had seen her sister sitting



MINNA CLARK

on the minister's lap in the Mills residence.

"I saw him kiss her as she jumped up," Mrs. Lee went on.

At that time, the witness explained, she was living in the Hall home and was in close touch and enjoyed the confidences of her sister.

In the modest dwelling which Jimmy Mills had provided for his



Charlotte Mills



Ferd Davis

wife and their two children it was no secret that the wife-mother was deeply in love with the clergyman.

Whenever opportunity offered she boasted of their affection, and on several occasions announced they would go away—to Japan—as soon as divorces could be secured.

At least that was the testimony of Mrs. Lee, a plump little woman with well-worn clothing, and she gave it in a straightforward way that must have left as deep an impression upon the jurors as it did the morbid spectators, who stretched forward in their seats so as to better hear every word.

Told Jimmy She'd Run Away

"My sister told her husband, in my presence, that she intended to run away with Dr. Hall," Mrs. Lee declared. "She told Jim that when she was ready to leave him, she would not bring disgrace to his name. She said she would let him know plenty of time in advance."

Through the recital Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall, seated between her brothers, Henry and Willie, looked at the witness through partially closed eyes. Once she shut them

Said They Would Elope When Minister Got Divorce

entirely, but only for a fleeting second. That was when Mrs. Lee said Mrs. Mills had declared she, the dead woman, had something Mrs. Hall never could boast of—the love of the clergyman.

While the congregation in general, the girls' guild and other church societies buzzed over the attention Dr. Hall was bestowing upon Mrs. Mills, the former's wife was not unaware of what was taking place, it would seem from the further testimony of Mrs. Lee.

Thought Minna Told Wife

"Eleanor suspected Minna Clark of telling Mrs. Hall things that would make Mrs. Hall unfriendly toward her," she swore.

Mrs. Clark, who is under indictment as an accessory after the

fact, was called to the witness stand, but failed to respond to her name.

Anthony Silzer, brother of New Jersey's former governor and stenographer to the grand jury which investigated the killings in 1922, identified a typewritten statement as having been made by Henry Stevens.

This was read by Francis L. Bergen, prosecutor of Somerset county, and was in substance as has already been published, that Henry was fishing at Lavallette when his brother-in-law and Mrs. Mills were slain.

No Duress Employed

Capt. Harry Walsh, of the Jersey City detective force, told of how these statements had been made by the defendant. He denied, under cross-examination, that any duress had been employed, or that the utterances of Stevens had been juggled in any way.

Two relatives by marriage of the dead chorister followed. Frank Barnhardt, husband of Mrs. Elsie Barnhardt, said he heard Mrs. Mills say Dr. Hall was her ideal man, and Henry Mills, who resembles his brother, Jimmy, declared that people were gossiping about the minister and his sister-in-law two years before the tragedy.

Mrs. Hall had regained her composure when Peter Somers, a private detective, described he had run down information contrary to her interests. She once more was the placid defendant, as calm as when she reached the court house and was told that Mrs. Jane Gibson, the "pig woman," might testify tomorrow.

A rumor that the state's prin-



ELSIE BARNHARDT

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